

which use evidence-based programs to strengthen the Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders core protection; encourage States to eliminate dangerous practices in confinement and to promote adoption of proven best practices and standards; increase family participation in design and delivery of treatment and services; and support efforts by State and local governments to expand youth access to counsel and to encourage programs that inform youth of opportunities to seal or expunge juvenile records once they have gotten their lives back on track.

In short, H.R. 5963 provides badly needed updating to a law which can make a significant positive impact on the lives of many of our nation's youth. Please, for the sake of those youth who may come in contact with the criminal justice system and for the betterment of the future of our nation, support the bipartisan bill, H.R. 5963, when it comes before you on the floor of the House tomorrow.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. Should you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

HILARY O. SHELTON,
Director, NAACP
Washington Bureau
& Senior Vice President
for Policy and
Advocacy.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. CURBELO of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I want to remind my colleagues what this bill is about.

Yes, it will improve the juvenile justice system. It will help State and local leaders better serve at-risk youth and juvenile offenders. It will also help improve public safety and build strong communities across the country. But, to me, it is really about opportunity.

These reforms will help vulnerable kids from all across the country realize that they have an opportunity to work toward a brighter future—one that doesn't involve a life of crime or violence. And they will help those children find the support they need to seize that opportunity.

A vote in support of the Supporting Youth Opportunity and Preventing Delinquency Act isn't just a vote to advance this legislation, it is a vote of confidence that all children can achieve a lifetime of success, even when the odds are stacked against them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 5963.

I yield back the balance of my time.
Mr. KLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 5963, the Supporting Youth Opportunity and Preventing Delinquency Act.

Every child deserves the opportunity to achieve a lifetime of success. That's what this legislation is about—helping more children realize that success is possible.

In some cases, that means keeping at-risk youth out of the juvenile justice system and showing them a life of crime is not their only option. In others, it means giving children who

are already in the system a second chance to turn their lives around. And in every case, it means helping kids acquire the skills they need to grow into productive members of society.

That's why this bill includes reforms that will empower state and local leaders to better serve vulnerable children in their communities. We know there are important efforts already underway, including right here in our nation's capital.

Earlier this year, I visited a community-based program called Boys Town DC, and I had the opportunity to meet a young man named Terraun. At Boys Town, Terraun was learning how to be responsible for household chores and to resolve conflicts respectfully. He was also improving his cooking skills, which he hopes one day will lead to a successful career as a chef.

Terraun is holding himself accountable and thinking about the future. And regardless of his background and past mistakes, he is on the right path.

Unfortunately, not every vulnerable youth has the same experience. But with this important legislation, we can help more kids just like Terraun work toward a brighter future.

I want to thank Representative CURBELO and Ranking Member SCOTT for all of their hard work on this bipartisan bill and for delivering these important reforms. I also want to thank Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, for the work he has done to advance many of these reforms in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill that will have a positive impact on communities across the country, and more importantly, it will help some of our nation's most vulnerable children achieve a lifetime of success. I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CURBELO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5963, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING AN ANNUITY SUPPLEMENT FOR CERTAIN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5785) to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide for an annuity supplement for certain air traffic controllers.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5785

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FULL ANNUITY SUPPLEMENT FOR CERTAIN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS.

Section 8421a of title 5, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking "The amount" and inserting "Except as provided in subsection (c), the amount";

(2) by redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (d); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following:

"(c) This section shall not apply to an individual described in section 8412(e) during any period in which the individual, after separating from the service as described in that section, is employed full-time as an air traffic control instructor under contract with the Federal Aviation Administration, including an instructor working at an on-site facility (such as an airport)."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

It is my honor to present and speak about H.R. 5785, which provides a full annuity supplement for certain retired air traffic controllers that serve as instructors—a measure that helps ensure safe skies and also cuts waste and inefficiency.

Over the next 5 years, the Federal Aviation Administration plans to hire a new generation of air traffic controllers. As the generation following the 1981 strike reaches retirement age, more than 6,000 new controllers will be trained in Oklahoma City's FAA Academy to fill this void and safely manage our Nation's air space.

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Training this new generation of controllers requires a full staff of quality and committed instructors. Current law, however, financially penalizes instructors who work full time, causing discontinuity in the classroom and government waste.

There is an arbitrary income cap in place for our experienced, retired air traffic controllers who want to receive their full benefits. Consequently, many instructors choose to work part time instead of full time to maintain these benefits. To match the hours of a full-time instructor, the FAA must hire four part-time instructors, which quadruples the cost for training, wasting about \$1 million each year.

To remedy this situation, my bill removes the income limit so that our Nation's most experienced air traffic controllers can work as instructors full time and receive their benefits. Not only will the FAA save up to \$1 million

each year, but consistent teaching by quality instructors will ensure our skies remain safe.

I appreciate the leadership of Chairman CHAFFETZ and Ranking Member CUMMINGS, in giving this legislation timely and supportive consideration, as well as my Democratic cosponsors, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia and Mr. LYNCH of Massachusetts, and the bipartisan supporters who recognize the importance of this matter.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5785, and I thank Congressman RUSSELL for his leadership on this measure.

H.R. 5785 would help ease the difficulty that the Federal Aviation Administration currently has in hiring air traffic controller instructors. The bill would eliminate the Social Security earnings cap for the FAA air traffic controller instructors who are receiving pension supplements. The cap is, currently, \$15,720 per year. This cap has made it hard for the FAA Academy to hire full-time instructors because retired air traffic controllers do not want to lose their annuity supplements.

The FAA has a critical shortage of air traffic controllers, and it is vital that we help ensure that the FAA is able to recruit enough qualified instructors to train controllers. This legislation is narrowly tailored to address a matter that would have significant effects on public safety, so I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. RUSSELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia for her kind support.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. RUSSELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5785.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. HUELSKAMP. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GAO ACCESS AND OVERSIGHT ACT OF 2016

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5690) to ensure the Government Accountability Office has adequate access to information.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5690

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “GAO Access and Oversight Act of 2016”.

SEC. 2. ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION.

(a) ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION.—Subchapter II of chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 721. Access to certain information

“(a) No provision of the Social Security Act, including section 453(1) of that Act (42 U.S.C. 653(1)), shall be construed to limit, amend, or supersede the authority of the Comptroller General to obtain any information or to inspect any record under section 716 of this title.

“(b) The specific reference to a statute in subsection (a) shall not be construed to affect access by the Government Accountability Office to information under statutes that are not so referenced.”.

(b) AGENCY REPORTS.—Section 720(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “or planned” after “action taken”; and

(2) by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform of the House of Representatives, the congressional committees with jurisdiction over the agency program or activity that is the subject of the recommendation, and the Government Accountability Office before the 61st day after the date of the report; and”.

(c) AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN RECORDS.—Section 716 of title 31, United States Code, is amended in subsection (a)—

(1) by striking “(a)” and inserting “(2)”; and

(2) by inserting after the section heading the following:

“(a)(1) The Comptroller General is authorized to obtain such agency records as the Comptroller General requires to discharge the duties of the Comptroller General (including audit, evaluation, and investigative duties), including through the bringing of civil actions under this section. In reviewing a civil action under this section, the court shall recognize the continuing force and effect of the authorization in the preceding sentence until such time as the authorization is repealed pursuant to law.”.

(d) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 7 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 720 the following:

“721. Access to certain information.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 5690, the GAO Access and Oversight Act.

As stewards of the Federal Government, we have a duty to make sure that taxpayer money is spent appropriately. We also have a duty to make sure our watchdogs have the tools that are necessary to combat waste, fraud, and abuse, especially the Government Accountability Office.

The GAO has a proven track record of excellence. In the past 6 years alone, it has identified over 200 areas of duplication, overlap, or fragmentation and has recommended more than 600 corrective actions; however, Congress needs to ensure the GAO has the access necessary to carry out the work we ask of it.

Today, we have the opportunity to better arm the GAO by clarifying that it does, indeed, have inherent access to data contained in the National Directory of New Hires. In doing so, we will help the GAO to better investigate potential fraud and improper payments, including those in the disability insurance program. The GAO's objectives are hindered without access to this data, and taxpayer dollars are not as well protected against waste, fraud, and abuse.

The language in this bill has been included in bipartisan legislation that was approved unanimously by the full House last Congress. To ensure the GAO has all of the information it needs to perform its critical role for Congress, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5690.

I also thank Senator SASSE for his work on this bill in the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for bringing this bill forward.

Mr. Speaker, the GAO provides invaluable aid to Congress in conducting our constitutional duty to oversee and evaluate the executive branch. To do its job effectively, the GAO needs timely access to agencies' documents, materials, and other information.

The bill before us would ensure the GAO's access to the National Directory of New Hires, a valuable database of wage and employment information. Access to this database would assist the GAO in its improper payment and fraud work as well as in evaluating programs in which eligibility is being means tested. The bill would also explicitly provide the GAO with standing to pursue litigation if an entity in the executive branch improperly denies the GAO access to information.

Mr. Speaker, similar bills have passed the House by wide margins in a number of previous Congresses. These are needed reforms, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I urge the adoption of this bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.